

HORSEMAN SHATTERS READING WITH TWO GOALS IN FIRST PERIOD

AFTER a shaky start against Third Division Reading, Wanderers settled down to produce some fine, attacking football and gain a prestige win by retaining the Wycombe Hospital Cup last Thursday evening.

Reading, still experimenting under the guidance of their newly-appointed manager, Jack Mansell, fielded a strong first team with the exception of their goalkeeper. First choice Roy Brown had injured his shoulder in training the day before and with the reserve 'keeper out too, they had to borrow the services of Wycombe's reserve, John Pratt.

The visitors started in fine style, winning four corners in the opening minutes.

The Wycombe defence though were a tower of power, tackling with confidence and clearing quickly to their forwards.

In contrast, the Reading defence looked very suspect, especially in the air, where they were guilty of elbowing and pushing — a misdemeanour referee Cleare was quick to spot.

Vince Faulkner was the first victim. When going for a high cross he was sandwiched between two Reading players on the edge of the box. Leading scorer, Tony Horseman, took

the free kick, which hit a Reading player and rebounded back to Horseman, who rattled the crossbar with his second attempt.

It was a let off for Reading, but a similar incident ten minutes later led to the first goal. This time, Horseman himself was held down on the edge of the box and with his 14th minute free kick he gave Pratt no chance.

That elusive goal was not yet to be for Reading and just on half time Worley broke on the wing and crossed for Horseman to crack the ball past Pratt.

In the first 45 minutes Reading had been beaten by the

infamous Wycombe slope, insisting on playing with it, but lacking the speed to do so on the hard bumpy pitch. Time and time again their attacks were broken as the ball was lost into touch.

Wanderers veteran Len Worley displayed some classic individualism in the second half bringing blushes among the Reading defence as he ran patterns around them.

But for all their hard work Wanderers were unable to increase the lead. In fact Reading were playing their 4-2-4 system with more enterprise and stretching the Wanderers'

defence to their best.

An almost inevitable Reading goal was carved out by John Docherty, who crossed the ball for Collins to pick his spot in the back of the net after 70 minutes.

After the match, Wanderers' chairman, Mr. Jack Smethurst, presented the trophy to Wycombe skipper, Keith Samuels, and handed over a cheque for £97 16s. 0d. to Wycombe Hospital.

Wycombe Wanderers: J. Maskell; L. Temel, D. Thomas; K. Stevenson, I. Rundle, J. Lailey; K. Samuels, B. Baker, V. Faulkner, A. Horseman, L. Worley.

Reading: J. Pratt; D. Bacuzzi, C. Meldrum; E. Yard, R. Spiers, R. Thornhill; J. Docherty, J. Collins, J. Sainty, P. Silvester, D. Allen. Subs: D. Habbins, R. Smee.